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PREFATORY NOTE.

The recommendations of the Governors of Massachusetts and Pennsylvania to the legislatures of their states this winter to revise the road laws, and the presentation of bills for that purpose to the legislatures of New Jersey and other states seem to show that the subject of this monograph is becoming one of general legislative interest. In consequence, it has been thought advisable to insert some matter that would not be needed in a strictly scientific discussion of the question, especially the rather extended notice of the laws of other countries, even though this should lead at times to partial repetition. A tabular digest of important parts of the laws of the United States seemed also, for this reason, necessary; but it was impossible for me to obtain access to a library complete enough to enable me to prepare it. It has, therefore, been prepared, under topics of my suggestion, by Mr. Robert Weil, Ph. D., late Fellow in the School of Political Science of Columbia College, to whom, for his very careful work, I am much indebted.